# PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
# NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] MAY 1, 1943 [No. 144


LECTURE CXLIV.

## BETWEEN ROUNDS IN RUSSIA.

The Russian Command has formally announced **the end of its winter counter-offensive**, and has reviewed its results in territory regained and losses of man-power and equipment inflicted on the enemy. Its quality as a feat of organisation and strategical planning has been universally recognised. Now, when thaw has spread along the entire length of the eastern front, and "General Mud" is in temporary command both of the Russian and German armies, it is possible to attempt a statement of account. To what extent has this winter offensive altered the situation on the eastern front, and what has it achieved as a contribution towards the final victory of the Allies?

Territorially it has wiped out the German gains and left them rather worse off than before they opened their great summer offensive last year. Moreover, if we take the German advance on Stalingrad and the Caucasus together with the Russian recoil, the fighting of the past nine months has left the Axis forces relatively weaker than their Russian opponents. The satellite armies have been virtually destroyed, and a terrible inroad has been made into the "top layer" of the *Wehrmacht*—veteran divisions who have had more experience of modern warfare than any other troops in the world. In other words, the Germans must write down the period from the summer of 1942 to the spring of 1943 as an almost completely wasted effort, with a very heavy bill of costs attached to it.

That is obviously a fact of immense significance for the future, and particularly so when we remember that this was a critical period when, according to the German time-table, the Red Army should have been permanently crippled, in order to release the greater part of *Wehrmacht* to meet the threat of Anglo-American invasions in the west and south. There can be little doubt that the loss of these vital nine months by the Germans will prove to have been a turning point in the war.

## RUSSIAN POSITION.

Now let us look at the situation from the Russian viewpoint. They have regained control of the rich corn-growing regions of the northern Caucasus and the Don Basin, and in time for the spring sowing. But these gains must be held, if many Russian civilians are not to go hungry next winter. Secondly, they have averted the threat to the Trans-Caucasian oil-fields. That, too, is a defensive gain which must be maintained if the Soviet war machine is to keep up its pace this summer. On the other hand, the Russians failed (by a narrow margin) to win back the coal and iron and the heavy industries of the Donetz region, and the grain country of the Western Ukraine.

## STRATEGIC BALANCE.

Turning from the question of resources to strategical considerations, how are the Russians now placed to deal with the summer campaign? They have relieved Leningrad, a gain which greatly strengthens their right wing covering Moscow, but they have not been able to eliminate the German salient south of the city. An advance here would have opened the way to the Gulf of Finland, and so gained greater freedom of action for the Red Fleet based on Kronstadt.

Just south of Lake Ilmen they have removed the German salient round Demyansk, but they have not yet reduced Staraya Russa—where they so nearly trapped the German army a year ago. West of Moscow they have forced the enemy out of Rzhev and Vyasma, so breaking off the main German spearhead pointing to the capital; and by capturing Velikie Luki they have secured a jumping-off point against the great trunk railway between Leningrad and Kiev, 15 miles to the west.

The Germans are still firmly in possession of Smolensk, Briansk and Orel, which together provide them with a very strong fortified network facing Moscow from the south-west. On the other hand, the Russians have won back—and retained—the important supply centre of Kursk, which prevents the Germans in the central sector from having direct lateral communication with Kharkov and the south.

## THE VITAL DONETZ.

The loss of Kharkov has deprived the Russians of a valuable springboard for a drive to the Volga, and by the same token Kharkov in German hands gives them an offensive pivot. At the same time, the stubborn Russian defence of the upper and middle reaches of the Donetz river, and their retention of various bridgeheads on its western bank (as at Izyum) have preserved a strong defensive line for themselves. If the Germans could have established themselves in strength across the river, they would have been well placed to strike in behind the Russian position either in the north or in the south. Finally, the Russians are better situated regarding rail-road communication than they have ever been since the original German advance. They have now a lateral system directly linking Moscow with Voronezh, Likhaya (in the Donetz bend), Rostov and the Caucasus, with a supporting network radiating from Stalingrad. Some time may elapse, however, before these lines can be brought into complete working order again

To sum up, the Russians are in a stronger defensive position all along the front than they were a year ago. They have wiped out the German gains of last summer and added to that achievement by biting into the enemy's fortified network at several important points, notably Velikie Luki and Kursk. But the Germans have been able to deny them the possession of a strong platform for a general offensive based on key points such as Smolensk, Orel, and Kharkov.

### GERMANY FACES SUMMER.

The sun is said to be shining again in the Ukraine, and steam is rising from the sodden ground. Early in May the ground may be dry enough in the south for mobile operations to be resumed. There are many indications that both sides are massing their forces. The persistent—and costly—efforts of the Germans to establish bridgeheads across the middle Donetz seem to point to a determination to launch an offensive in that sector. Their stubborn resistance on the Taman Peninsula may indicate an intention to make a renewed attack on the Caucasus—but it seems more likely to be a defensive measure to hold off the Russians from the Crimea and the Azov seaboard.

Last year the Germans tried to make up for their loss of a "creative pause" during the winter by postponing their offensive until well on in the summer. They cannot afford to do that this year. Hitler and the German Command must strike at the Red Army quickly and with all the power at their disposal, trusting in the meantime to two principal weapons to hold off the Allied menace in the west—Rommel in Tunisia and an all-out U-boat offensive in the Atlantic. British and American leaders are well aware of that fact, and have every intention of meeting this improvised German time-table.

# WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

## 24—4—43 to 30—4—43.

**Russia.**—Large-scale fighting has ceased all over the Russian Front, including the Donetz and the Kuban, though patrol activities, reconnaissance and guerilla attacks continue. Preparations are going forward on both sides for an early resumption of hostilities. For instance, Hitler is reported to have massed over 100,000 men in defence of the TAMAN Peninsula, and the Russians are concentrating forces round NOVOROSSISK for a break-through.

During the week, Russian saboteurs destroyed the strategic railway over the Uzsoker Pass in POLAND, joining the Central European system with the Russian Railway; and her air-forces raided TILSIT on April 20 and INSTERBERG on April 23. Both are in East PRUSSIA.

**Tunisia.**—A battle for the 'Gateways', as it is called, is in progress along the approaches to TUNIS and BIZERTA. The first gateway is in the extreme north where the Americans are up against a strong enemy defensive line; the second gateway passes through MEDJEZ EL BAB, where ferocious fighting is

going on for the possession of Long Stop Hill; while the third and main gate is the road winding from BOU ARADA to PONT DU FAHS, where the Germans have concentrated their defensive armour.

The Eighth Army which occupied ENFIDAVILLE on April 21 has since taken TAKROUNA and JEBEL TERHOUNA.

Other places occupied during the week are GONBELLAT, SIDI MEDIAN, JEBEL MANSOUR, ARGOUB EL HEMILLA, SAHA ARJOUT and JEBEL KOURINA. (This list which should include a number of small ridges is not exhaustive)

The Allies have pierced the Axis lines in the BOU ARADA sector. The van-guards of the 8th Army are in the proximity of BOU FICHA. JEBEL TANNGOUCHA on the Northern Front has been stormed. Axis forces have been forced to withdraw from the SIDI NSIR sector, and were beaten at JEBEL TANNGOUCHA.

KERKENNA islands, off the Tunisian coast, near SFAX have been occupied.

To sum up, the Allies have driven breaches into the Axis positions all along the front, and are making steady progress, though the enemy is contesting every inch of ground.

The Axis losses have been heavy. According to an official statement Rommel and Arnim have lost between them 66,000 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner between Jan. 1, and April 15, in addition to 250 tanks captured or destroyed, 34 ships sunk, 108 ships damaged, 3,000 vehicles, 425 guns and over 1,000 aircraft, destroyed or taken.

**The Pacific.**—The Japanese are reported to be massing heavy reinforcements at WEWAK in NEW GUINEA, in order to strengthen it as a base second only to RABAUL. Australian and Japanese forces are skirmishing in the MUBO area, in deep jungle country.

Allied troops occupied FUNAFUTI Island in the Ellice group, on the line of communication to AUSTRALIA.

The following were the air raids of the week:

*April 18.*—MUNDA (108th time), KISKA (124th time in the last two months).

*April 19.*— KIETA, KAHILI, TONOLEE, KISKA.

*April 20.*—MUNDA, KISKA.

*April 21,*—Cape ALEXANDER, POPORANG Island, BUIN, NAURU.

*April 22.*—TIMIKA, KAIMNA, DODO, TOCAL, SAMMALAKI, LAGI, UBILI, GASMATA, NAURU, KISKA, MUNDA, VILA, KAHILI, REKATA Bay.

*April 23.*—NUBIA, KAIRING, WAILOETOE, DODO, NAZZAU Bay.

*April 24.*—MUNDA, KISKA.

*April 25.*—MUNDA, KOLAMBANGARA Island, LUNGA POINT.

*April 26.*—WEWAK, MADANG, SAIDOR, FINSCHHAFEN, MUBA, TIMIKI, TRANGAN Island, TOCAL.

The Japanese raided GUADALCANAR on April 20.

**China.**—The Chinese have attacked the Japanese positions near SINYANG, repulsed enemy attacks on LUNGSHAN, ICHANG, PAOSHENG and SWATOW: and captured TIEN PAOSHAN. Heavy fighting is taking place in the coal-mining district of HONAN.

The Japanese have occupied LINCHWAN and reached the suburbs of LINHSIEN.

**Burma.**—British and Indian troops have taken up new positions on the MAYU Peninsula, east of the Mayu River, withdrawing from TAUNGMAW, INDIN, HTIZWE and DONBAIK. This was done both to avoid enemy infiltration and to establish positions for the monsoon. Constant patrolling is carried out between the Mayu River and the sea. Units of the BURMA Navy and the Royal Indian Navy are stopping Japanese reinforcements on the Mayu River, and the enemy has brought up artillery to the banks to control the river. Allied patrols in the upper Chindwin and the Kachin Levies in the Sanprabum area have inflicted considerable losses on the enemy.

The following is a list of the Allied air-raids of the week :—

*April 19* :—MEIKTILA.

*April 20* :—Places and buildings in the AKYAB District, THAUNGDUT, THAZI.

*April 21* :—BANGKOK, RANGOON, SINLAMAUNG, NABA.

*April 22* :—MAINGYAUNG, RANGOON, SHADZUP, railroad tracts near MANDALAY.

The Japanese attacked the IMPHAL area on April 20, causing some damage and a few casualties. One enemy plane was destroyed in addition to a number of planes damaged.

---

# ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

**18—4—43 (Sunday).**

**EUROPE.**

**DAY:—**

**The docks** at DIEPPE.

**Offensive sweeps** over the ENGLISH CHANNEL (1 enemy plane shot down).

**Enemy shipping** off the DUTCH coast.

**Air-fields** at POIX and COURTRAI (France).

**NIGHT:—**

**Railway objectives** in occupied territory.

**Destroyers** off LORIENT (1 destroyer sunk).

**TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.**

**Air combats** over the SICILIAN channel (77 enemy planes shot down).

**Enemy air-fields** in TUNISIA.

**Marshalling yards and airfields** at PALERMO (Sicily).

**CATANIA** (Sicily).

**An air-field** in SARDINIA.

**Shipping and harbour installations** at PORTO TORRES (Sardinia).

**RUSSIA.**

**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN front.

**FAR EAST.**

**The air-field** at CAPE GLOUCESTER (N. Britain).

**The town and airfield** at FINSCHHAFEN.

**The airfield** at KOEPANG (Timor).

**Jap installations** at MUNDA (Solomons) **and** KISKA (Aleutians).

**Railroad bridge** at PAZUNGDAUNG (Burma).

**Ry. truck** near TAIHPAGA (Burma).

**19—4—43. (Monday).**

**EUROPE.**

**DAY:—**

**Transport targets** and a power station in Northern FRANCE.

**Military targets** in BELGIUM (no loss to the allies).

**NIGHT:—**

**Transport targets** in FRANCE and North-west GERMANY.

**Axis shipping** in the CHANNEL (2 Allied planes missing).

**TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.**

**Air combats** over the TUNISIAN coast (20 Axis planes destroyed).

**Air-fields** in TUNISIA.

**The port and shipping** at TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KIETA (Bougainville) and KISKA (Aleutians).
The Jap air field at KAHILI.
Shipping in the TONOLEI harbour (Bougainville).
The Jap base at KOEPANG (Timor).
Jap air fields in S. W. PACIFIC.
The supply base at WEWAK (N. Guinea).
Rail road bridges near MYITKYINA (Burma) and at NAMTI (Burma).
RANGOON area (Burma).

20—4—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway targets at BOULOGNE.
The Docks at CHERBOURG (France).
Industrial plants at ZEEBRUGGE. (2 enemy planes destroyed).
NIGHT:—
BERLIN (Capital of GERMANY).
The Baltic port of STETTIN (Germany).
The post and HEINKEL works at ROSTOCK (31 allied planes missing).
Locomotives and barges in FRANCE, LOW COUNTRIES and N. W. GERMANY.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy air fields and positions in TUNISIA.
Offensive sweeps in forward areas.
Air combats over the Gulf of TUNIS (2 enemy planes destroyed).
Enemy air fields in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap installations at KISKA (Aleutians) and MUNDA (Solomons).
Jap bases on the Islands to the north of Australia.
Jap troops in the MAYU hills and THAUNGDUT (both in Burma).
Enemy transport in the AKYAB district (Burma)
An air field near MEIKTILA.
IMPHAL area (Burma).
Rail road at THAZI (Burma).

21—4—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
No information available.
NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy troops and positions in the battle areas.
Enemy air fields in TUNISIA.
Shipping and harbour installations in CARLO FORTE (Sardinia).
The docks at TUNIS.
BIZERTA (Tunisia).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Japanese positions at TIMIKA and KAIMNA (Dutch New Guinea).
DODO (Aroe Islands).
TOCAL (Kai Islands).
SAMMALAKI (Tenimber).
LAGI (Timor).
Air fields at UBILI and GASMATA (New Britain).
Jap positions in the BOUGAINVILLE area and near CAPE ALEXANDER.
POPORANG Island (Shortlands).
An enemy Cargo ship in the BUIN area.
NARU Island (Gilbert group).
KISKA (Aleutians).
BANGKOK (Capital of Thailand).
Enemy installations at RANGOON (Burma).
Rail road at MAYMYO (Burma).
Enemy stores and troops at KAMAING and HPUNGINZUP (Burma).

22—4—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway targets in occupied EUROPE.
NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy waters.
INSTERBURG (E. Russia).
Communications in Southern ITALY. POZZUOLI (near NAPLES).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy communications, motor transports and air fields in TUNISIA.
Enemy ground positions in the battle area.
Communications at MATEUR (Tunisia) (8 enemy planes shot down).
2 motor vessels off SICILY.
Sea plane base at SYRACUSE (Sicily).

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Gun emplacements at NUBIA (N. Guinea).
Air combats over KAUIENG (New Ireland) WAILOETOE (Tenimbar Islands).
Supply area at DOBO (Aroe Islands).
LABABIA Island (Naru Bay)
Jap positions at MUNDA (Solomons)
VILA (Kolambangara Island) and KAHILI (Shortlands).
Enemy targets in the RANGOON area.
THILAWA oil refinery (Burma).
Rail road yards at MAHLWAGON (Burma).
SHADUZUP (Burma).
Ware houses and rail road tracts at MANDALAY (Burma).

23—4—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Axis transport system both at land and sea in occupied EUROPE and North-west GERMANY.
An E-boat and an armed trawler off HOLLAND.
NIGHT:—
No information available.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy ground positions in the battle areas.
Airfields in the TUNIS area.
Offensive sweeps in the battle areas.
The docks at BIZERTA.
An enemy vessel off SICILY (sunk).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN front.
Airfields and important junctions in the German's rear.

FAR EAST.

A Jap cargo ship off KAVIENG (the ship sunk).
Jap positions at REKATA BAY.
KISKA (Aleutians).
Jap occupied villages in the UPPER CHINDWIN in Burma including PINBON.
A steamer near MAGWE (Burma).
Jap river transport elsewhere in (Burma).

**24—4—43 (Saturday).**

**EUROPE.**

**DAY:—**

**Railway workshops** in Western GERMANY.

**NIGHT:—**

**The Naval base** at NAPLES (Italy).
**Workshops and factories** in West GERMANY.

**TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.**

**Enemy positions and motor transport** in TUNISIA.
**Enemy air fields** in TUNISIA.
**The docks** at BIZERTA.

**RUSSIA.**

(For the week 17—4—43 to 24—4—43 Russians lost 184 planes; while the Axis lost 381 planes).

**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the Russian Front.

**FAR EAST.**

**Jap positions** at MUNDA (Solomons) and KISKA (Aleutians).
**Jap occupied base** in CELEBES (Island).
**Enemy bases air-fields** north of AUSTRALIA.
**The air-field** at MEIKTILA (Burma).
**Railway junction** at WUNTHO (Burma).
**Objectives** in upper CHINDWIN and the MAYU area (Burma).
**HEHO air-field** (Burma).
**Oil fields** at YENANGYAUNG (Burma).

## ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

**19—4—43 (Monday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**A few places** on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.

**NORTH AFRICA.**

**ALGIERS** (Algeria).

**RUSSIA.**

**LENINGRAD.**

**FAR EAST.**

**Air combat** near ROOKE Island (1 Jap plane shot down).

**20—4—43 (Tuesday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**LONDON** area (very slight damage).

**NORTH AFRICA.**

**Forward** positions of the British 1st army in TUNISIA.

**RUSSIA.**

**LENINGRAD.**

**FAR EAST.**

**The air field** at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

**21—4—43 (Wednesday).**

**BRITAIN.**

No information available.

**TUNISIA.**

**British 8th army's position** in the ENFIDAVILLE area.

**RUSSIA.**

**LENINGRAD area.**

**FAR EAST.**

**The air field** at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

**22—4—43 (Thursday).**

**BRITAIN.**

No information available.

**TUNISIA.**

No enemy air activity.

**RUSSIA.**

**Russian airfields** behind the Russian lines.

**23—4—43 (Friday).**

**BRITAIN.**

South and South-west ENGLAND.
**Scattered points** in west MIDLANDS (England).

**TUNISIA.**

**Air combats** all along the coast of TUNISIA.

**FAR EAST.**

Allied position in the MAYU Peninsula.

**24—4—43 (Saturday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**A few points** on the East and South coast of ENGLAND.
**A north east coastal town** in SCOTLAND.

**TUNISIA.**

**Air combats** all along the coast of TUNISIA.

**RUSSIA.**

**Russian communications** behind the Russian lines.

**25—4—43 (Sunday).**

**BRITAIN.**

No information available.

**TUNISIA and FAR EAST.**

No enemy air activity.

---

# SIDE LIGHTS.

---

**HITLER'S 54TH BIRTHDAY** which came off, on April 20, was a quiet affair, we are told, without receptions and festivities. The shine has gone out of 'the glittering dictator.' The birthday messages of his minions read like condolences rather than felicitations. Goebbels laments: 'Hitler is now standing up and struggling with stubborn grimness against, at times, hard and painful blows of fate. It is better to ban the devil of doubt and discord. Confidence is the best moral weapon of war. If that is found wanting, that is the beginning of the end. The war in the 4th year has reached its hardest stage so far, and the end or the way out of its

burdens and sufferings is, at present, nowhere in sight.' Goering's refrain is: 'Victory or annihilation is at stake. The time of hardest trial and decisive ordeal for our nation and every single German has come.'

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

**OUR MODERN FRANKENSTEIN.** As we think on his birthday of the frightful career that has been Hitler's we are forcibly reminded of the monsters of fiction, of Faust, and particularly, of Frankenstein, that weird product of Mrs. Shelly's hectic imagination—of the man-devil who, out of fragments of carcass picked up from church-yards and dissecting-rooms created a soulless monster into which he infused a sort of life by means of galvanic shocks. But at the end it turned out to be a vile creature, and became the instrument of the destruction of its own creator. Yet the facts of Hitler's life, stranger than fiction, are history. More dreadful than the Frankenstein monster is Hitler's Nazidom, reeking with the stench of murder, and foul with the horrors of rape and plunder, which its author vainly tries to keep alive for a while by galvanising it with the shock of panzers and the devilry of U-boats. But as it came to happen with Frankenstein so will it be with Hitler: the monster of his creation will be the means of his perdition. The world he has wronged will be the instrument of his undoing.

We are not indulging in any flight of fancy; nor do we wish to exaggerate. Commenting on Hitler, on the occasion of his birthday Mr. Cordell Hull, that sober statesman, could do no better in justice than compare him to Nero, Caligula and Attila; he called him, 'a combination of fiendishness and inhumanity.'

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

**HITLERIAN CRIMES.** The latest instances of Hitler's wickedness are appalling enough. During the week he has reiterated his determination to shackle prisoners of war. Reports have reached His Majesty's Government of Hitler's intention to use poison-gas in his next campaign in RUSSIA. Synchronising with his birthday has also come the news from 'Swit Par', a secret Radio Station in POLAND, that 35 Jews, the last batch of victims still alive in the WARSAW ghetto, have been sentenced to death, and that the streets of the city are echoing with shots and the shrieks of executed men, women and children.

In fact, of all the savageries perpetrated by Hitler, the most brutal have been practiced on the Jews—a race which has produced some of the greatest thinkers, scientists and artists of the world and has deserved better. According to the findings, published this week, of an Allied Committee charged with the task of collecting information about the conditions in occupied EUROPE, two million Jews have been already done to death since 1939, and five more millions are awaiting a similar end. In the city of VILNA over 50,000 men have been murdered in cold blood; in ROWNA, 14,000; in LWOV, 50% of the population; in POLAND, over a million. The figures are staggering but the

methods of extermination are more horrible still. One method called 'scientific', Frankensteinian rather, is to huddle the victims in railway waggons with only standing space and sealed and guarded, to drive them to their destination—that is, to the places of their burial—with the floor strewn with a mixture of quick-lime and chlorine. Those that were choked to death by the chlorine vapours still kept standing, for want of falling space, along with the half-dead and the dying; and those that did not die during the journey were kindly electrocuted—on reaching the destination, the dead bodies were disposed of by mass-burial in which, to expedite the work, special machines called 'bull-dozers' were employed.

The *Red Star* reports in its issue of April 24 that in SMOLENSK the Germans used another form of killing by putting 1,500 Jews in hermetically closed lorries containing poison gas.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE JAPANESE MONSTER** In these revolting and diabolic deeds the Japanese are excelling their European masters—excelling them not in brutality, because that is impossible, but in treachery and cunning. We do not allude to their old wickedness in MANCHURIA or KOREA, or FORMOSA or CHINA, because they are horrors of the past, but to current instances—to the execution of air-men who fell into their hands during the raid on TOKYO, first, falsely charging them with the guilt of having deliberately bombed civilians and non-military objectives, and afterwards, extorting 'confessions' of guilt from them under torture.

Fittingly, Hitler has approved the Japanese action, and has promised to take it as a precedent for himself.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE INHUMAN RAID ON RANGOON.** His Excellency the Governor of Burma Sir Reginald Dorman Smith, has done a timely service by publishing the following statement on the raid on RANGOON :—

'As long as I live, I will never forget Japan's inhuman bombing of RANGOON on December 23, 1941. On that day her air-men quite deliberately slaughtered some 2,000 civilians, the vast majority of whom were Indians, whose cause she now pretends to champion. Those 2,000 innocent Indian victims are a testimony to Japan's so-called humanity. The Japs proved themselves skilful bombers. Their very accuracy shows, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Japan's bombing of civilians in Rangoon and elsewhere in Burma was deliberate and calculated. And this is the nation which dares to sit in judgment upon others.'

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**JAPANESE BOMBING OF HOSPITAL SHIPS.** Instances of such atrocity can easily be multiplied. From the CALCUTTA A. I. R. Studio comes the news, broadcast by the Captain and crew of a hospital ship, of how she was bombed and damaged by Japanese bombers.

She now lies at anchor, riddled with bullets. During the winter months she carried patients from MAUNGDAW to CHITTAGONG.

The Axis Powers, both east and west have cast aside all humanity. They are the felons, the out laws, of the world.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**Mr. CHURCHILL'S MESSAGE.** But all this frightfulness far from intimidating the Allies, as it is meant to do, has steeled their determination to wipe out the malefactors. In a message to Gen. Arnold, Chief of the U. S. Army Air-forces Mr. Churchill said :

'I have read with indignation of the cold-blooded execution of your airmen by the Japanese. This barbarous and unusual action reveals, in a peculiarly significant manner, the fear the Japanese have of having munition factories and other military objectives in their homeland bombed.

'I cannot resist sending you this message to assure you that the R. A. F. earnestly looks forward to the day when its airmen will be able to fly side by side with their American comrades to attack TOKYO and other cities of JAPAN, and strip this cruel and greedy nation of its power to molest the civilized world.

'We shall certainly claim for our airmen a full share in this task, which however long it takes, must be thoroughly done by the combined forces of both our peoples'.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE ALLIED WARNINGS.** Meanwhile, the British Government has given the same warning to GERMANY that should she use poison gas in RUSSIA, the same process will be employed on German munition centres, sea-ports and other military objectives. The American Government has also warned the Japanese officials that they will be held personally responsible for the execution of the pilots.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE R. A. F's. VISIT ON HITLER'S BRITHDAY.** The R. A. F. was out in force over BERLIN on April 20 by way of concluding Hitler's brithday celebrations. It also included in its visit STETTIN, over which it dropped, in 40 minutes, 150 four-thousand-pound bombs, tens of thousands of incendiaries and hundreds of other explosives. ROSTOCK also was similarly honoured. STETTIN is GERMANY's important port on the Baltic, from which supplies reach the German armies in Northern RUSSIA. ROSTOCK is the home of the Heinkel aircraft works and of submarine building yards.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**JAPANESE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.** Recent ministerial changes in JAPAN, especially, the appointment of Mr. Snigemitsu, a former friend of BRITAIN and AMERICA, have been fancied in certain quarters

to foreshadow a Japanese peace-move, and unconfirmed reports speak of a similar move on the part of the Spanish Government. But the Allies resolve to continue to fight to the finish is as stern and inflexible as ever. Mr. Cordell Hull, on behalf of U. S. A. has reiterated that the Allies will agree to nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the Axis and their satellites. Mr. Eden declared, amid 'loud cheers', in the House of Commons, that this was also the view of His Majesty's Government.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**ONE STRATEGY, ONE RESOLVE.** There has been observed, of late, an impatience, among certain U. S. Congress men who angered, no doubt, by the Japanese atrocities, have demanded a diversion of the main war effort to the Pacific, but the Allied Governments have as certainly refused to be deflected from their main strategy, as they have expressed their determination to adhere to their main objective of unconditional Axis surrender. The war is one and indivisible just as the Axis is one and indivisible. Allied blows in the West will have their repercussions in the East. 'Strike Hitler', as Col. Frank Knox said 'and Tojo's nose will bleed.'

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE TUNISIAN BATTLE.** All eyes are now turned on TUNISIA, where the final phase of a great and fateful battle is in progress between the Axis forces shut up in the mountain fastnesses, and the Allies steadily and irresistibly closing in on the enemy. It is mainly a British affair—the 8th Army's and the 1st Army's assisted by American and French forces, in which the Indian 4th Army plays a glorious part. 'Tough and grim', 'Stiff and fierce' is the description given of the struggle by the German Commentators.

Rommel's casualties since MARETH are estimated at 50,000. While Allied air-fields have multiplied, the Axis air-fields have dwindled, confined to a narrow, vulnerable area. Within the Axis perimeter of defence there are left some 150,000 Germans and 60,000 Italians, half of the latter probably belonging to non-combatant units. The outer bastions of this perimeter which run from ENFIDAVILLE, round PONT-DU-FAHS, to GONBALLAT, MEDJEZ-EL-BAB and the coast, just east of CAPE SERRAT, are formed by two mountain belts: one, running from CAPE BON to ENFIDAVILLE; and the other from MEDJEZ-EL-BAB northwards to BIZERTA. These mountains are like those on the north-west frontier of INDIA, steep and rocky, with numerous wadis and glens. It may thus be seen that the terrain may to some extent make up for the enemy's weakness in armour, though his concentration within the limits of this bridgehead will also expose him to concentrated attacks from the air. In the final battle, especially for and around BIZERTA, the Navy will also intervene. Thus the Axis fate is sealed, though it may take some time for the curtain to fall.

There are reports that some of the Italian troops have already been evacuated, as they could not be trusted to stand the final assault, that Rommel, suffering from a nervous break-down, has left for GERMANY and that Von Arnim has shifted his headquarters to SICILY, abandoning his forces and the Africa Korps to their fate, at any rate, leaving them, behind to retreat as best they can.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**THE RUSSIAN THEATRE.** In RUSSIA, the war of the bridgeheads continues, both sides jockeying for position for the next offensive. The Russians hold a defence line, better than last year's, especially at KURSK, CHUGUYEV, BALAKLEYA and IZYUM. Conversely, the Germans are desperately clinging to their bridgehead at NOVOROSSISK on the Black Sea, off the CRIMEA. At present the only 'active' sector on the vast Russian front is a line of low hills running along the TAMAN Peninsula where the Russians hold a number of salients, attacked incessantly by the Germans since April 16 but in vain. Artillery duels are incessant on the outskirts of NOVORSSISK.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**PACIFIC SPECULATIONS.** There have been speculations of late over recent increased enemy activities in S. W. Pacific, especially at GUADALCANAR, NEW GUINEA, PORT MORESBY and MILNE Bay. It has been said that they foreshadow a Japanese descent on AUSTRALIA. The latest of such utterances is Gen. Blamey's who thinks that the enemy's occupation of the islands in the Arafura Sea, some 315 miles from DARWIN, constitutes an element of danger.

These recent enemy offensives, we may state at once, have been costly failures. In his raid on GUADALCANAR on April 7, the heaviest yet, for an Allied lose of one destroyer, one tanker and one corvette sunk, one small fuel boat damaged and 7 planes lost, the enemy lost 25 fighters and 12 bombers out of a force of 92. In his attack on Allied shipping in NEW GUINEA he lost half his planes; in his raid on PORT MORESBY, 37 out of 100 planes; and at MILNE Bay 30 out of 80.

At the end of these operations the enemy's position has become no better. Allied forces are advancing in NEW GUINEA.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

**'DEFENDER'S DILEMMA'** In the S. W. Pacific, as it seems to us, far from preparing for an invasion of AUSTRALIA, the enemy is in what is called in military language 'defender's dilemma', whether to abandon valuable positions already seized or to hold them at heavy cost. As Senor Ramon La Valle, until recently a Consular Attache in TOKYO has stated, fear has seized the heart of TOKYO; her statesmen are talking of a 100 years' war.

Col. Knox, the U. S. Navy Secretary has knocked the bottom out of the arguments presaging a Japanese invasion of AUSTRALIA by pointing out that the Japanese do not possess a sea-force large enough to transport men and materials to AUSTRALIA. We have heard too of the Japanese wooden ships which are being constructed for their coastwise traffic.

Gen. MacArthur further contends that even if the enemy had ships, so long as the Allies continued to possess, as they now do, superiority of land-based aircraft, JAPAN's sea-borne planes would be ineffective. It was only when and if this superiority were lost that JAPAN would be able to move up her naval forces and carry ground-troops for a landing in AUSTRALIA. That side which can push up its ground bases under air cover will win. Air-power is the crux of the problem, and both AUSTRALIA and AMERICA are fully aware of it and are taking the necessary steps.

The speeches of the Blameys, the Makins and the Curtins should therefore be viewed in their proper perspective. They should be regarded as statements of facts on the situation, and not as expressions of fear or panic. They are a call to arms.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

**THE NANKING DUPE.** A new Japanese move announced last month, and intended to enlist the support of Chinese Quislings, is to hand over properties of enemy nationals—chiefly of Britons and Americans, to nominees of the NANKING Government. They include numerous industrial undertakings. In this way it is also hoped to 'wipe out' Anglo-American interests in SHANGHAI. But unfortunately for the sinister plan the *Frankfurter Zeitung* has maliciously let the cat out of the bag; the transfer in most cases is to be made only on condition that 'private Japanese businessmen or capitalists retain a share in them.' This is an old trick. When Wang Ching Wei's régime was established in March 1940 a similar trick was played on the Chinese. Much play was made of the Japanese Army handing over properties to their Chinese owners—cotton mills, flour mills etc. But in each case a demand was also made to include a Japanese partner. Thus the puppet Government failed to get popular support.

---

# THE GUIDING HAND.

---

*Mr. Churchill.*

"I have often asked myself what would have happened if Hitler had put three-quarters of a million men on board all his barges and boats, and let them stream across, and taken the chance of losing three-quarters of them.

There would have been a terrible shambles in this country, because we had hardly a weapon.

**We had not, at that time, 50 tanks, whereas we now have 10,000 or 12,000. We had a couple of hundred field guns, some of them brought out of the museum.**

We had lost all our equipment at Dunkirk and in France, and, indeed we were spared an agonising trial.

### JAPS' MISTAKE.

Another mistake was made by the Japanese when they attacked the U. S. at Pearl Harbour, instead of attacking the British Empire alone when Britain was already busy with Italy and Germany in Europe. Hitler did try tentatively, to invade England, but the R. A. F. crushed him.

In the crisis of 1940, it is no more than sober truth to say that Britain saved the freedom of mankind, and we must not cast away our great deliverance, we must carry our work to its final conclusions. We shall not fail.

I have a feeling, sometimes, that some Guiding Hand has interfered. I have a feeling that we had a Guardian because we serve a great cause, and that we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that cause faithfully."

# A NORTHERN SAGA.

*M. Maisky—Soviet Ambassador.* (*London, April 20*).

The northern convoys, carrying arms, munitions and supplies from Britain, Canada and the United States to the Soviet Union, formed one of the most outstanding chapters of the epic of sea war.

They are magnificent exploits. Your merchantmen, protected by your Navy, were battling their way through dark wintry nights, through heavy Arctic seas with ice and snow and storms, through constant attacks by submarines and shore-based aircraft, defying danger, privations and death itself.

Some of the ships, and some of the men, who went to the north have never come back. This saga will live for ever in the hearts of the Soviet people, who rightly see in it one of the most striking expressions of collaboration between the Allied Nations, without which our common victory would be impossible.

These northern convoys greatly contributed to the recent turn of events in the East. Let me on behalf of the Soviet Government, the Red Army and the whole Soviet people, express our most sincere gratitude to your gallant seamen for their bravery and courage.

The hour of victory is approaching. The ring round Hitler's Germany is gradually closing in. Whatever Hitler and his gang may do they will not escape their fate.

# KACHINS AND CHINS ADEPT GUERILLA FIGHTERS.

## FIERCE HATRED OF JAPS.

(*F. R. Moraes, "The Times of India" War Correspondent*).

I travelled for most of the journey by plane. From the air the topographical contrast between Bengal and Assam is striking. Eastern Bengal is a deltaic area formed by the confluence of India's two great rivers, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra.

The landscape though green is flat; sleepy streams thread their way through fields and the countryside seems somnolent. Assam is more alive. One passes from flat fields to rugged hills and the contrast compels attention.

It was misty as we flew over the Bay of Bengal. Rain fell as our plane landed at the aerodrome. Yet, 70 miles farther north the sun shone, and when a little over an hour later we crossed the border into Assam blue clouds still promised good cheer. Once over the border the plane climbed steadily. For the first time I knew the exhilaration of flying very high. Below us floated wreaths of nimbus cloud enfolding the hill tops in a fleecy mantle: through it, as through a diaphanous film, the country spread beneath us—great massive folds of hills, gashed here and there by scrub and stone, green forest-clad slopes, fields and valleys.

From Arakan, the terrain of the Northern Front, though superficially similar, differs in many respects. Here, as in Arakan, there are hills and river. But the hills are more rugged, running in long spiny ridges with their flanks ribbed by wooded ranges. Heavy rains have washed away the soil and the hillsides expose patches of bare rock. The foliage is dense and tall trees shut out sunlight. Here indeed is that matted jungle in which Kipling's Mowgli would have delighted. Imphal, 2,000 feet above sea level, is the capital of Manipur State. Burma's north-west frontier touches Assam, Manipur and parts of Bengal.

### GUERILLA SKIRMISHES.

Fighting along this straggling frontier consists largely of guerilla skirmishes. The warfare is more spasmodic than in Arakan. Yet this jungle country has seen fitful flashes of intense, bitter fighting between patrols. In this type of warfare the Kachins and Chins have shown themselves remarkably adept. Both are mountain people, and like all hillmen impatient of control: though primitive and at times inclined to turbulence they are hardy and know no fear. They are animists, worshipping the hills and trees of their colourful countryside. For the Japs they cherish a fierce hatred.

The Kachin hills, covering the north-west, north and north-east frontier of Burma, rise in successive ridges, like the ribs of a fan, into the snow-clad fastnesses of Tibet. Few realise that the Digboi oilfields in Assam are barely 200 miles as the crow flies from the Chinese frontier. The Abor district of

North Assam abuts on Burma, China and Tibet. Assam's polyglot population reflects this territorial alignment.

To date the Kachin levies have accounted for over 400 Japs. In January we occupied the Kabaw valley, which runs opposite Tammu roughly parallel to the Chindwin river for about 50 miles: it lies about ten miles west of the waterway. Whether, in view of its highly malarial terrain, we shall continue holding on to the valley during the rains remains to be seen. Between these two fronts run the green jungle-covered Naga hills, where friendly Naga tribes help our troops as guides and patrols. Nagadom's biggest chief, the monosyllabic-named Bong of Wong, hit the headlines recently by solemnly declaring war against Japan.

Imphal played its part in the last war. On an evening stroll the other day, I came across a small but impressive monument commemorating all ranks of the Fourth Assam Rifles who fell in that conflict. On a marble slab were engraved two crossed *kukris*. Today the *kukri* flashes again in the Assam hills. I watched a small group of jawans playing volley ball, the favourite game of our Indian soldiers on active service. How many similar boisterous games have I not witnessed in Arakan! On an adjacent field, bearded Sikh soldiers played hockey. Assam has not the tenseness of Arakan, but it simmers with new-found life. I find it vastly interesting.

---

# SOVIET AMBASSADOR MAISKY.

## UNCONVENTIONAL DIPLOMAT.

*BAHADUR SINGH*

*(Condensed from a recent B. B. C. Talk).*

For ten years now, Ivan Mikhailovich Maisky has been Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Britain. His position as Ambassador was often delicate and generally exacting, but Russia was sure of her choice, and to-day, no member of the diplomatic corps is better known to the British public than the Russian Ambassador.

M. Maisky was born on January 19, 1884, the son of a scientist. He was not bred to diplomacy, but he believes that the chief duty of an envoy is to know and to understand the people among whom he must work and live. The greatest foe of good diplomacy, he says, is inertia and indolent aversion to new ideas.

### EARLY LIFE.

He has been no less indulgent with the Press, for he himself was a journalist in his earlier days. Few people realise that as far back as 1912, M. Maisky earned a moderate living as a free-lance journalist. Although an

imperfect knowledge of English hampered him, it was reported that his work was in the old Russian vein, serious, well-informed, written for the intelligent reader, but always topical and always vivid.

Before this time, his youth was typical of the large numbers of Russian revolutionaries living under the Czar. It is the story so often told of underground activities, of persecution and of the poverty and nostalgia of political exile. After the Revolution, M. Maisky returned to Russia in 1917. There were still journalistic interludes in his career, and Russians recall his editorship of a Leningrad magazine. He organised the Russian co-operative movement and led it after the fall of Czardom. In 1921, he headed the Siberian State Planning Committee. Since then Siberia has become the core of Russia's industrial life.

In 1922 he entered the Soviet diplomatic service as Chief of the Press Department of the Moscow Foreign Office. From 1923 to 1927, he was Councillor to the Russian Embassy in London, charged with the task of keeping the Foreign Office informed of economic developments in Great Britain. It may be said that those who worked with him at that time recall his appetite for blue books and white papers, and radio reports and massive documents. In 1927 he left London, to return five years later as Ambassador, and during the interval he had served for two years in Tokyo and three years in Finland.

## INTEREST IN LIFE AND SCIENCE.

None of the preoccupations of a diplomatic life have lessened M. Maisky's interest in life or in science. There is nothing introspective or dilatory about him, and his speech is always vigorous.

Nearly a year and a half ago, he slipped unobtrusively into the chairman's seat at the conference held by the British Association on Science and World Planning. He was in a grim mood that morning, and talked "of a humble Ambassador who knows nothing about anything." He went on to assure his hearers that **if Hitler won the war, there would be no freedom, no democracy, no culture, no science, no planning in the world. All that the Hitlarian order would mean to us, he said, would be one huge midden throughout the length and breadth of the planet. He was speaking as a representative of a nation that had tasted the tyranny and the terror of the invaders, and his sincerity and belief in victory were intense and unshakable.**

## TYPIFIES THE SPIRIT OF HIS PEOPLE.

The big shots of the Ambassador caste may find him baffling and too nimble for the routine of diplomatic circles. In Britain he and Madame Maisky have many close friends in the diplomatic corps.

He has always been an effective mixer. Maisky is not orthodox. Pro fessional diplomats frown on his methods of direct approach. Shunning inertia as he does, he has never faltered in the choice between conventional etiquette and his interpretation of good diplomacy.

There is nothing pompous in M. Maisky's nature. Whether he is unveiling a tablet on Lenin's former lodgings in Finsbury, or presenting Russian orders to British airmen, the Ambassador's presence and dignity command respect and praise in the British people.

M. Maisky indeed typifies the spirit of his own people, and Moscow has recognised this quality by awarding him the Order of Lenin, one of the highest honours a Soviet citizen can receive.

# STRAWS IN THE WIND.

The Japanese military authorities are intensifying medical facilities at Macassar "to safeguard the inhabitants against typhus."

* * * *

Rangoon announced on April 6th that the old currency notes are to be withdrawn and replaced by new notes linked up with the yen.

* * * *

Artists in Japan have now entered the total war. They have formed a Society which aims at the extermination of Britain and the United States "through artistic efforts."

* * * *

Tokio reports a conference in the Ministry of Communications to discuss the urgent building of wooden ships, at which the Governments of Formosa and Korea were represented.

* * * *

All schools in Indo-China now teach the Japanese language, according to a Tokio broadcast on April 6th. Two days later Saigon announced that all French officials must understand the Annamite language if they wished promotion.

* * * *

"We Japanese people do not believe that victory in war depends on superiority in numbers and equipment, but on the fighting spirit of the soldiers and in the justice of the cause for which we are fighting."—Broadcast from Singapore on April 7th.

* * * *

A Japanese broadcaster, named Umeyama, contrasts grumbling townsfolk with the villagers. "Women and children and the aged in the villages rise at 4 a. m., to work in the fields. They produce rice, yet save most rice eating auxiliary foodstuffs because rice is more important elsewhere."

* * * *

"How could 50,000 or 100,000 soldiers coming to a country fight without, 'delicious flowers' to cater to their needs?" asked the Governor of Cochin-China when members of the Assembly during a debate, demanded the abolition of prostitution, and the employment of the women as army nurses or on other jobs.

---

# ONE-MAN WAR.

## *GERMS—not Germans—Are His Target.*

**Zooming from Baghdad to Tripoli, a lone American pilot in a single non-operational Lysander aircraft, today carries on a ceaseless one-man war of "No Quarter" against a deadly enemy whose "effectives" run into millions.**

His weapon is not a machine-gun, but a death-dealing smoke-spraying tube fitted under the fuselage.

And the foes are not Germans, but germs—the teeming mosquito larvae which—but for the ceaseless attacks of this smallest of all military units, would spread the plague of malaria among the British and Indian troops in the Middle East.

Directed from their laboratory H. Q. by the scientists of the R. A. F.'s Anti-Malaria Organisation, and piloted by 29-year-old Pilot Officer "Buster" Leach—one of the first Americans to join the R. A. F.—the "Flying Flit-Gun Squadron" can cover with its lethal larvae-killing spray a wider area in 15 minutes than 150 men could deal with by hand in a fortnight.

---

# TROGLODYTES.

(*Times of India*).

Of all the many different people inhabiting Tunisia, the most fortunately placed at the moment must be those strange tribes who live in the underground villages of the Matmata Hills in the south. Their homes constitute almost perfect air-raid-shelters.

It is a fascinating thought that these people may be the modern descendants of the ancient Troglodytes of North Africa, described by Herodotus in the fifth century B. C. and other classical writers.

A well-known archæologist has even suggested a direct link with the cave dwellers of the remote palæolithic past.

### THEIR HOMES.

Their subterranean villages, which can be approached by a rough motor road from the Oasis of Gabes, cannot be seen from the surface. All that is visible is a large number of pits dug out of the earth.

Grouped round each pit, which forms a sort of court, are some half a dozen holes cut out of the solid ground, wherein are housed not only the villages and their chattels, but also donkeys, camels, watch-dogs and, what one writer calls, " the usual smaller parasites. "

The roofs of the houses are arched to prevent their falling in.

## " SEEMS LIKE MIRACLE ",. SAYS PILOT.

## BLAZING BOMBER, IN SPIN, HURLS CREW TO SAFETY.

*" It was my 57th Operational flight over Burma—and I have to get shot down on it. Never mind, I'll soon be doing my 58th."*

A Flying Officer of the Royal Australian Air Force smiled a little grimly as he said this, an hour or two after he, and the rest of his crew, had baled out of their blazing Blenheim a few miles south of Maungdaw.

Here is his story :—

" Expecting to blow up at any second, I told the gunner and navigator to bale out. The navigator went first, but I could see Bert struggling to get out of the top hatch against the slip stream.

" The fires were spreading. The bomb-well had caught again, and was a hell of a blaze. So was the port petrol tank, and both wings and my side of the cockpit were also alight.

" I was holding her in the air, doing 110 m.p.h. about 1,500 feet, when all of a sudden she flicked into a spin. I fell head first through the hatch and began to float down.

" Afterwards I thanked God for that spin because it threw Bert out of the top hatch, where he'd been having such trouble. It seems like a miracle, coming when it did.

" Anyway, all three of us were safely out. I finished up about 100 yards from the plane, which crashed burnt out in the compound of a village, and Bert was only about 200 yards away. I can tell you I nearly wept with joy when I saw him walking up.

" The navigator landed in the hills a bit further back, and a search party went out straightaway to bring him in. He is all right."

# OLD RUBBER FOR NEW.

Hardly a month passes that a new trade pact between Japan and Indo-China is not announced as pending, completed, or being in a state of revision. However, if you are in the know you don't worry about trade pacts, you merely say what you want and get it, in return of course, for a consideration. What is the price of the consideration is of no importance so long as someone else foots the bill.

Let the well-known Japanese novelist, Tatsuzo Ishikawa, tell you how it is done. The story was broadcast by Tokyo in English on April 2nd :—

Among the players I noticed a tall white-haired man, and later this white-haired man came in. Immediately he shook hands with my friend, C. Matsuoka. It appears he was no less a person than the former naval commander in Indo-China. The Admiral joined us over a beer and began to talk to my friend. "Matsuoka, I have a request to make of you. There isn't a single golf ball in Indo-China. We all play golf—now since you arranged to send me about fifty dozen from Japan I am inclined to think there are plenty of balls in Japan"

"Sure, there are plenty in Japan", Matsuoka declared. But afterwards he added: "Surely you have plenty of rubber in Indo-china."

The Admiral looked up and smiled. "You will then—."

"Of course", said Matsuoka and that being satisfactorily arranged, we sat down to enjoy our beer.

That, according to the announcer, is a picture of life in Indo-China where "happy, contented people are cheerfully co-operating with Japan in every sphere, political, economic, and military, even on the golf course."

# THEY "PLAY AT TRAINS" IN EARNEST.

"Driver, Engine, Steam" is an Army qualification which gives an Indian soldier the right to drive railway locomotives, from the midgets on the small gauge to the giants which roar across the Continent.

It is a prized qualification, and a small private railway somewhere in South India, is the initial training ground. Two small but powerful engines, a maze of tracks, wagons and loading stations are the engine driver's "school books."

He learns all about pistons, steam pressure, gauges, boilers and their peculiarities, fires, heat, and heads of steam. Finally he is allowed to handle that polished steel throttle lever, and drive the train.

To complete the training, the "drivers, engine, steam" are sent on a short course with one of the bigger Indian railway systems, where they learn to handle the giant goods engines, and do some shunting.

These experts know something about permanent way, and signals, and enough of traffic organisation to fit in with a simple traffic scheme.

When they are posted to their engineering units they are the men on whom the army will depend to run railways in newly captured territory.

## SAPPERS' MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

The trained sapper is not merely a war-machine, trained to fight and kill, but a well instructed individual, hardened to become an expert builder, mechanic or machineman, carpenter or smith, driver or some other artisan, so that he may take his rightful place in the post-war reconstruction schemes and thus become a useful citizen. This impression was gained by pressmen after a demonstration by a military unit in the field and in workshops somewhere in South India. The pressmen witnessed field exercises which a sapper is put through, not only to make him "tough" physically but also to give him the requisite mental poise to keep collected in the face of danger, and do his duty in trying circumstances, with a sense of duty and responsibility.

Target shooting, bayonet assault, negotiating an obstacle course across country under enemy fire, assault boat-drill, mine-laying and mine-detection, besides work in workshops figured in the demonstration, which was given by boys about 16 years old and mostly sons of older men in the unit. Some very good target shooting was witnessed, one section scoring as many as four bulls. The strenuous training the recruits have undergone was clearly shown by one of the items, in which the men had to dive under a culvert, cross a big well over a ropeway, jump across two nullahs, swinging themselves across with the

help of a rope hung to a branch overhanging the nullahs, crawl over stretches covered with barbed wire, jump over a rugged ditch, and climb an 11-foot high building, all the time taking cover from "enemy fire", before reaching their objective. The assault boat-drill showed how quickly the sapper can assemble assault boats into any formation, prepare them to form a bridge for troops or heavy artillery to pass across, row them unobserved by the enemy to a desired point, perform his job there, and return to base safe and sound.

The demonstrations in the workshops showed the boys at work under master craftsmen, learning the use of drills, precision instruments, lathes, power-driven saws and internal combustion engines.

---

# WINGS FOR VICTORY

**During the 'Wings For Victory Week' Londoners raised £ 162,015,869 sterling or Rs. 215 crores (approximately).**

One Heavy Bomber Costs Rs. 207,000.

The normal tactical life of a bomber is 300 hours' flying, or 60 average sorties over Germany.

**so**

Londoners have paid for enough machines to mount a 1,000-plane raid on Germany every day from April 1, 1943 to January 1945

**but**

on December 5, 1940, the Berlin radio said,

**'GREAT BRITAIN IS AT THE END OF HER FINANCIAL RESOURCES.'**

## PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

# PROGRAMME.

---

### LECTURE CXLIV (*Batch 3*).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1- 5-43 | Municipal Office. | 6.00 p.m. |
| 2- 5-43 | Kottaikkadu ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 3- 5-43 | Annavasal ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Kilakkurichchi... | 7.30 ,, |
| 4- 5-43 | Kulipirai ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Sevalur ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 5- 5-43 | Ramachandra-puram. | 7.00 p.m |
| ,, | Rayavaram ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 6- 5-43 | Valaramanikkam. | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Embal ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 7- 5-43 | Malaiyur ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Karambakkudi... | 7.30 ,, |

### LECTURE CXLV. (*Batch 4.*)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8- 5-43 | Municipal Office. | 6.00 p.m. |
| 9- 5-43 | Nirpalani ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Avoor ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 10- 5-43 | Karaiyur ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Idaiyattur ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 11- 5-43 | Vadavalam ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Sammattividuthi | 7·30 ,, |
| 12- 5-43 | Nartamalai ... | 7.00 p.m. |
| ,, | Uppiliakkudi ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 13- 5-43 | Andakkulam ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Killanur ... | 7.30 ,, |
| 14- 5-43 | Konnaiyur ... | 7.00 ,, |
| ,, | Melaveguppatti. | 7.30 ,, |

### RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1— 5—43 | Vettamviduthi. |
| 2— 5—43 | Kodumbalur. |
| 3— 5—43 | Kiranur. |
| 4— 5—43 | Kudimiyamalai. |
| 5— 5—43 | Rayavaram. |
| 6— 5—43 | Alangudi. |
| 7— 5—43 | Pudukkottai. |
| 8— 5—43 | Ponnamaravathi. |
| 9— 5—43 | Virachchilai. |
| 10— 5—43 | Viralimalai. |
| 11— 5—43 | Vadakadu. |
| 12— 5—43 | Kilanilai Puduppatti. |
| 13— 5—43 | Kulipirai. |

9548

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—1-5-43.